

Democratic leader, that we have some important issues that we need to continue to work on that were pending as we went out of session. I hope we can begin to do that right away, in a bipartisan manner. I will be talking to Senator BRADLEY and the Democratic leader about a bill that he is very interested in, and maybe we can work on that some during the week and decide how that can be brought up.

Also, Members of the Senate and the House and the administration have been working to try to come to some agreement on the terrorism bill. If they would resume their work early this week, which I encourage, and not leave that to come up in some haphazard way later on in a week or two or three, but rather get back to it right quick in the cool of the evening, maybe we can come to some early agreement on that legislation.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ISSUES CONFRONTING THE SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me welcome back the distinguished majority leader and the Presiding Officer and indicate how pleased I am to have the opportunity, once again, to be working with him as we consider the many issues that we must confront in the short time that we have available to us. I trust, as well, that his month was productive and restful and successful in many respects.

I look forward to working with him on a number of the issues he mentioned. The one omission I cite, and I am sure it was an oversight, but I look forward to working with him on that as well, is the Executive Calendar, which was a matter that was unresolved prior to the time we left, and of great concern to colleagues on this side of the aisle.

I also indicate to the majority leader that it would be my hope that he and I could sponsor a joint resolution or a resolution which would indicate our support for the actions taken in Iraq. I hope there would be broad bipartisan, virtually unanimous, support for the actions taken. I intend to talk with the distinguished majority leader about that throughout the day.

Mr. President, we have a lot of work to do. I must say I am very hopeful that in the short time that we have available to us we can make it a productive time. Obviously, appropriations bills will deserve, as they should, the highest priority. As we were able to do in the remaining days of the session prior to the recess, Democrats and Republicans came together on a number of bills, and I hope that would set a very important precedent and a standard by which we will judge our progress and our ability to work together in the remaining weeks of this session.

I will have much more to say about the President's actions in Iraq, as well as the convention, in the time allotted

to Democrats prior to 2 o'clock this afternoon.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m.

Mr. DASCHLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAQ

Mr. DASCHLE. This morning, the President of the United States ordered the use of cruise missiles against key strategic targets in Iraq. President Clinton noted in his address that despite clear warnings from the United States and the international community, Iraqi forces attacked and seized the Kurdish-controlled city of Irbil. Iraq's latest attack repeats a pattern the civilized world has seen before. Saddam Hussein is prepared to use force at any time to achieve his end, to threaten his neighbors, to terrorize his own people, and to undermine the stability of the entire Middle East.

This act of naked aggression violates the spirit if not the letter of the United Nations' resolution adopted shortly after Saddam's earlier misguided attempts at transforming the balance of power in the Middle East. President Clinton correctly stated that if we did not respond firmly and decisively at this time, Saddam would conclude he could act with impunity.

The purpose of the U.S. military action is twofold: First, Saddam must pay a price for his attack on the Kurds; second, by extending the no-fly zone and eliminating certain air defense assets, we have reduced the threat he poses to others. To our allies and to others overseas, President Clinton and the United States will continue to do all that is necessary to protect our national and our international interests. And the President will continue to consult closely with our allies as he did before taking this action.

Finally, I am optimistic that all Americans will set aside partisan political differences and stand behind the administration at this important time. Senator Dole's latest comments indicate that he supports the United States strikes, and I am pleased to know that others in his party have had similar reactions. I expect strong, if not unanimous, bipartisan support for the President's decision to launch a United States strike against Iraq this morning.

As I indicated earlier today, it will be my intention to work with the majority leader to propose a resolution of support for the President's actions later today, to be voted upon tomorrow.

Mr. President, I hope Saddam Hussein and those who are in control of the Iraqi Government clearly understand the resolve and the determination of this administration and this country. This may be a political year, and we may now be in the most contentious time of the entire Presidential campaign, but on this issue there can be no disunity. There can be no lack of cohesion. We stand united, Republicans and Democrats, determined to send as clear a message with as clear a resolve as we can articulate: Saddam Hussein's actions will not be tolerated. His willingness to brutally attack Kurds in northern Iraq and abrogate U.N. resolutions is simply unacceptable.

We intend to make that point clear with the use of force, with the use of legislative language, and with the use of other actions that the President and the Congress have at their disposal. We stand united in support of the President's commitment to stand up against Iraq's aggression, and we should continue to demonstrate our support for the administration's response in the weeks and months ahead, regardless of the actions taken by Saddam Hussein.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COVERDELL. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President: It is my understanding that from the hour of 12:30 until 2 o'clock that time is allotted to either myself or a designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, in just a moment I am going to call on the distinguished senior Senator from Texas. I know I am another American here that is thinking every moment and every day about the condition of our men and women in the armed services that are engaged in the conflict with Iraq. That will not be the subject of our discourse this afternoon. But before we get into it I wanted to acknowledge my concern, and I am sure the concerns of all of my citizens in Georgia at home and across the Nation as we hope that each of their journeys is a safe one and that they all return ultimately to their assignments and ultimately at home here in the United States safely and in good keeping.

So our thoughts are with all our armed services personnel wherever

they may be at this very, very difficult time.

THE DRUG EPIDEMIC

Mr. COVERDELL. Today we are going to talk about another war, and that is the domestic war that is infecting millions upon millions of Americans—primarily teenagers—as we deal with yet a new drug epidemic in the United States. And “epidemic” is the right word. It is hard to believe that we are in the midst of one. And we hope that the next hour and a half will be in part a wake-up call to Americans across our land that all of us have to be engaged in—putting the question mark in the mind of every teenager as to the effect on their lives of abuse of drugs. All I can say is, even if they ultimately recuperate from it, that their lives will be unalterably and forever changed.

With that, Mr. President, I yield to the distinguished Senator from Texas for up to 10 minutes on this issue. I know he wants to say a word or two about Iraq as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, let me thank our dear colleague from Georgia.

THE CONFLICT IN IRAQ

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I have always tried to make it a matter of policy to be supportive of the President on international and military affairs whenever possible. I think each of us in the Senate owe it to the President to give him the benefit of the doubt on military matters. Certainly we owe it to those in uniform to be supportive of them when they are in harm's way.

I believe that given the conflict among the warring Kurdish factions in the northern part of Iraq and the instability there that the President's actions can be justified both to send a warning to Saddam Hussein and to destroy the air defense capability in the southern part of the country so that we might extend the no-fly zone.

But, having said that, Mr. President, let me make it very clear that while giving the President the benefit of the doubt I can support the actions he has taken in firing 27 cruise missiles and destroying air defense capacity in expanding the no-fly zone, and while I certainly support our military forces in the region, if we look at the fundamental conflict, it is a conflict between two warring Kurdish factions—one backed by Iraq and one backed by Iran, and we do not have a dog in that fight.

If this conflict escalates, if this becomes a conflict between Iran and Iraq, I think the President would be poorly advised in becoming involved in that conflict and I would not and could not support such an involvement.

THE DRUG EPIDEMIC

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, I want to talk a little bit about drug use. You

may recall that many people derided or made fun of Nancy Reagan's “just say no” approach to the use of illegal drugs. But I think it is interesting that for 11 years in a row during the Reagan-Bush era drug use among our children declined. Just saying no was a policy that worked. It seems now that we are not saying no enough in Washington and our children are not saying no enough in our junior high schools.

If we look at the record on drug use, it is a frightening sight as to what is happening. Overall drug use has more than doubled in the last 4 years. Drug use among teenagers is up 105 percent in the last 4 years. The use of marijuana among teenagers has risen 141 percent. Cocaine usage among teenagers in the last 2 years has gone up by 160 percent. Today 1 out of every 10 children in America between the ages of 12—that is the sixth grade—and 17 now are using drugs at least once a month.

How did Washington contribute to this tragedy that is occurring in every junior high school in America? I think it started when President Clinton took office and, in his first days, cut the drug czar's office by 83 percent. President Clinton cut drug interdiction spending 25 percent below the level carried in the last Bush budget. Between 1992 and 1995, 227 positions at DEA were eliminated. Drug prosecutions in 1993 and 1994 declined by 12 percent, and the average sentence for selling marijuana declined by 13 percent from 1992 to 1995.

I think if we are serious about this problem that we need to end the debate that we have been engaged in with the administration for the last 4 years where the President is trying to eliminate mandatory minimum prison sentences for hoodlums who are selling drugs at junior high schools, and we need to enact reforms that the Senate has adopted numerous times, and yet which has not yet become the law of the land. I have proposed 10 years in prison without parole for selling drugs to a minor or involving a minor in drug trafficking, so every hoodlum in America, when they are thinking about selling drugs to a child, will understand that if they are convicted they are going to prison and they are going to serve every day of 10 years in prison no matter who their daddy is or how they may think society has done them wrong.

I also want life in prison for people who get out of prison having been convicted once of selling drugs to a minor and turn right around and do it again.

I think when we look at this data on drug use it is obvious that we are not doing our job. I think we need to change that pattern. I want to double the size of the Border Patrol. This last year we took a first step. It is a major step in the right direction. Right now we have more police officers in Washington, DC, than we have Border Patrol agents trying to police and control the entire border of the United States of America. It is not unusual—in fact it is

the norm—to have on any shift in a 300-mile strip from Brownsville to Laredo 87 Border Patrol agents actually working that line. We are using in many cases near-obsolete sensing devices, while the military has great night vision and infrared capacity. We do not have similar capability in the Border Patrol. That needs to change.

We need to double the size of the Border Patrol over the next 5 years. I believe that given the threat we face from armed drug gangs, with automatic weapons, with night-vision capability, and with sophisticated electronic communications basically invading our country nightly, that we do not now have the resources we need and we have certainly not committed the will to keep drugs out of our country.

We need to expand the capacity of the FBI Academy. I think we should have a goal that within 5 years we double the training capacity of the FBI Academy. In no other way can we give local law enforcement personnel the enrichment of training that they need and which can, in turn, be passed on within their police departments and their sheriff departments.

We need to expand the size of the DEA. I think if you will look at your individual State, you are going to find that in many vast regions we have only two or three or four DEA agents. And let me make it clear. I have no criticism of our Border Patrol agents, our FBI agents, our DEA agents. They are doing their job. The problem is they are not getting the support they need from Washington.

We need to prosecute vigorously drug felons in general and criminals who are selling drugs to children. I would like to see us change our building code and stop building prisons like Holiday Inns. We have at least three Federal statutes which criminalize making prisoners work. Prisoners cannot produce goods to be sold across State lines. They cannot produce items to be sold within the State. We have limits on the transport of prison-produced goods and you have to pay the union scale if you make prisoners work. Needless to say, not many prisoners in America are working and producing anything of value.

We took the first step in the Senate toward changing that last year. That effort died because it was opposed in the House and by the President. But I think we need to continue to work to change the criminal justice system in America.

In addition to that, we have to take a zero-tolerance approach to drugs. We need to make it very clear to young people that drug use is not acceptable. We need to hold people who are buying drugs just as responsible as people who are selling drugs. Whether we are talking about a high school student or a wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys, drug use should be a serious matter. I think we ought to call on our professional athletic leagues, the NFL, professional baseball, professional basketball, to set higher standards. If people